

For Six Month Period Ending Aug 30 2005
(Insert Date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
Ainsley Gill & Associates, LLC
- (b) Registration No.
5600
- (c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
1627 K Street, N.W. Suite 901
Washington, DC 20006

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual: NONE
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

2005 OCT -3 PM 2:50
CRM/REGISTRATION UNIT

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
- Yes ☐ No ☒
- If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐
- If no, please attach the required amendment. NONE

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
------	----------	-----------------------

- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	----------------------	-------------	----------	-----------------

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service. **NONE**

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
------	------------------------	-----------------

- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
------	----------------------	-------------	----------	-----------------

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement. **NONE**

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following: **NONE**

Exhibit A ³	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

-
11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

- Lobbying services in Washington DC on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

-
12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

See attachment B

-
13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
4/1/2005	The Government of Trinidad and Tobago	Retainer Fees	300,000.00
5/2/2005	The Government of Trinidad and Tobago	Expenses	31,850.16
6/9/2005	The Government of Trinidad and Tobago	Expenses	55,694.48
6/30/2005	The Government of Trinidad and Tobago	Retainer Fees	300,000.00
			687,544.64
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
------------------------------	------------------	----------------------------------	---------

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
Trinidad and Tobago			
4/1/2005	Alternative Marketing Access, Inc	Consulting Services	56,145.15
7/1/2005	Alternative Marketing Access, Inc	Consulting Services	60,000.00
4/4/2005	Patton Boggs	Lobbying Services	135,000.00
7/18/2005	Patton Boggs	Lobbying Services	67,970.67

319,115.82

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
---------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------

(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
June 15, 2005	2000.00	Wynn for Congress	Albert Wynn

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials ^{12?}
- Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>Information Material</u> | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Officials | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

SEE ATTACHED

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☒ No ☐

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

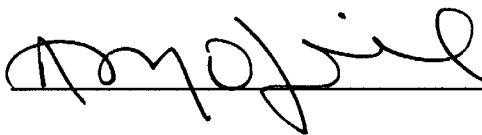
VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

August 31, 2005



Ainsley Gill

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
CRIMINAL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530**

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials - page 8 of Form CRM-154, formerly Form OBD-64-Supplemental Statement):

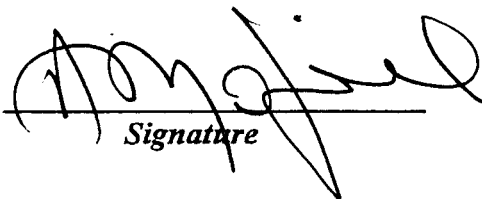
YES ✓ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)


Signature

9/30/05
Date

Ainsley Gill

Please type or print name of
signatory on the line above

Managing Partner
Title

2005 OCT -3 PM 2:59
CRM/REGISTRATION UNIT



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT -
PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Ainsley Gill & Associates, LLC

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Gill	Ainsley	02/13/2004		

2005 OCT -3 PM 2:59
CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principal(s) who have not as yet filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity. If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to us describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.)

Name	Function	Date Hired
None		

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

2005 OCT -3 PM 2:59
DOW/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT

Ainsley Gill & Associates, LLC
1627 K Street, N.W. Suite 901
Washington, DC 20006

Registration No. 5600

Supplemental Statement for six month period ending 8/31/2005

Interest and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose:

Interest and Policies:

- T&T relationship with the US government regarding trade, energy and security issues.
- Background work on the administration and potential trips by senior officials to the region.
- Contact of congressional and administration staff regarding these issues.

Means employed to achieve this purpose:

Work with the law firm Patton Boggs to assist and understanding US policy.

Act as liaison between the U.S. Government and the Trinidad and Tobago Government on bilateral relations.

Keep the Trinidad and Tobago Government sensitized to U.S. issues regarding policies affecting the Trinidad and Tobago.

Meetings - AGA, the U.S. Government and Trinidad and Tobago:

March 2nd, 2005

Met with U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Roy Austin in Trinidad to discuss US/TT relations.

March 7th, 2005

Met with U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Roy Austin in Trinidad to discuss US/TT relations.

May 23rd, 2005

Met with U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Roy Austin in Trinidad to discuss US/TT relations.

May 31, 2005

Meeting with Ms. Elizabeth Wolfson, State Department Desk Officer for Trinidad and Tobago to discuss US/TT relations.

July 26, 2005

Arranged for a conference call between the Honorable Mr. Eric Williams, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Mr. Leroy Mayers, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy to discuss with DOE (Gary Ward and Samuel Browne) bi-lateral energy interest.

August 25, 2005

Met with White House staff to discuss US/TT relations.

August 30, 2005

Met with Ms. Liz Wolfson to discuss the Minister of Energy trip to Washington in September.

Executive Summary

Trinidad & Tobago: Leading U.S. Strategic Partner in the Caribbean

Benefits of a Presidential Visit

A Presidential visit to Trinidad & Tobago ("TT") to meet with both TT Prime Minister Patrick Manning and the other CARICOM Heads of State would provide President Bush the opportunity to advance U.S. interests in the Caribbean at a crucial time in U.S.-Latin American relations. As Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez attempts to use his country's oil wealth and developing political influence and military strength to create an anti-United States bloc of countries in the region, friendly and productive relations with our Caribbean neighbors are critical to U.S. national interests regarding energy, trade, and security.

The United States should establish a dialogue with leading regional allies to ensure that its relations with the region remain productive and avoid the antagonism that Chavez apparently seeks. TT, whose coast is only 14 miles away from that of Venezuela, can and should be the key U.S. ally in securing productive Caribbean relations regarding energy, trade and security. TT does not wish to be politically aligned with Venezuela to the exclusion of good relations with the United States; to the contrary, it seeks to lead the nations of the Caribbean towards a mutually beneficial relationship with the United States.

Top U.S. officials including Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, who was involved with TT's LNG sector long before he ascended to Cabinet rank, and two-term U.S. Ambassador to TT, Roy Austin, who has had a trusted relationship with President Bush since their undergraduate days at Yale, add a valuable element of personal diplomacy to U.S.-TT relations.

TT is the only producer of petroleum in the fifteen-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and its dynamic economy and excellent seaports and airports make TT CARICOM's commercial engine and transportation hub. TT's positions on matters of energy, trade and security thus carry significant weight in CARICOM's international politics:

- **Energy.** TT is the leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the United States. Along with Barbados, it recently broke ranks with the rest of CARICOM on Venezuela's Petro Caribe initiative, which could make CARICOM countries dependent on Venezuela's oil.
- **Trade.** As a leading economy in CARICOM, TT is among the top Caribbean trade partners of the United States. Additionally, it is a beneficiary of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative and a strong proponent of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.
- **Regional Security.** TT has played a leading role in the implementation of the U.S. "Third Border Initiative," which aims to bolster transparency in governance and efforts to fight Caribbean drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and money laundering.
- **International Security and the War on Terror.** Since the commencement of hostilities in Iraq in March 2003, TT has sought to turn CARICOM's initial disagreement with the war into pragmatic support for post-war democratization and reconstruction. Additionally, although TT was a leading proponent of the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is willing to discuss the implications for both TT and the United States of signing a non-surrender agreement under Article 98 of the Rome Treaty establishing the ICC.

Trinidad & Tobago: Leading U.S. Strategic Partner in the Caribbean Region

Benefits of a Presidential Visit to Trinidad & Tobago

A Presidential visit to Trinidad & Tobago ("TT") to meet with both TT Prime Minister Patrick Manning and the other CARICOM Heads of State would provide President Bush the opportunity to advance U.S. interests in the Caribbean at a crucial time in U.S.-Latin American relations. As Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez attempts to use his country's oil wealth and developing political influence and military strength to create an anti-United States bloc of countries in the region, it is important that the United States establish a dialogue with leading regional allies to ensure that its relations with the region remain productive and avoid the antagonism that Chavez apparently seeks. As we explain below, TT is uniquely positioned to be just such an ally.

Chavez has become an increasingly outspoken critic of the United States, accusing Washington of planning military attacks on Venezuela and even plotting his own assassination. Meanwhile, Venezuela itself is becoming increasingly militarized, with plans to buy 100,000 Kalashnikov rifles, 10 military helicopters, and possibly MiG fighter jets from Russia. Both the State Department and the Department of Defense have criticized Venezuela as providing a safe haven for Colombian guerrillas and arms traffickers. The United States recently revoked the visas of several Venezuelan officials in Washington on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking; the Chavez government responded by announcing that it would cease its anti-drug trafficking cooperation with the United States, and it withdrew diplomatic immunity of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officials working in Venezuela. Finally, last week's news (week of August 15th) from Venezuela portends still worsening relations: Chavez and his vice president participated in a mock trial of President Bush at a festival called "Against Imperialism and War" in which Bush was found guilty of "crimes against humanity"; and Chavez threatened to end oil exports to the United States if it continued its "aggressions."

In this context, friendly and productive relations with our Caribbean neighbors are critical to U.S. national interests regarding energy, trade, and security. We believe that TT – whose coast is only 14 miles away from that of Venezuela – can and should be the key U.S. ally in securing these productive relations. TT is the only producer of petroleum in the fifteen-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and its dynamic economy and excellent seaports and airports make TT CARICOM's commercial engine and transportation hub.¹ TT's positions on matters of energy, trade and security thus carry significant weight in CARICOM's international politics. Most importantly, TT does not wish to be politically aligned with Venezuela to the exclusion of good relations with the United States; to the contrary, it seeks to lead the nations of the Caribbean towards a mutually beneficial relationship with the United States.

¹ CARICOM's 15 members include the following: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and TT & Tobago.

TT's strategic importance to U.S. interests in the Caribbean is manifest:

- **Energy.** TT is the leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the United States, and along with Barbados, it recently broke ranks with the rest of CARICOM on Venezuela's Petro Caribe initiative, which could make CARICOM countries dependent on Venezuela's oil.
- **Trade.** As a leading economy in CARICOM, TT is among the top Caribbean trade partners of the United States. Additionally, it is a beneficiary of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative and a strong proponent of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.
- **Regional Security.** TT has played a leading role in the implementation of the U.S. "Third Border Initiative," which aims to bolster transparency in governance and efforts to fight Caribbean drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and money laundering.
- **International Security and the War on Terror.** Since the commencement of hostilities in Iraq in March 2003, TT has sought to turn CARICOM's initial disagreement with the war into pragmatic support for post-war democratization and reconstruction. Additionally, although TT was a leading proponent of the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is willing to discuss the implications for both TT and the United States of signing a non-surrender agreement under Article 98 of the Rome Treaty establishing the ICC.

TT's leading role in CARICOM and the Caribbean region in general on matters of energy, trade, and security place TT in a position of significant strategic importance to United States interests in the Caribbean and throughout Central and South America. At a time when Chavez appears intent on turning the countries of this region away from their traditional support for the United States, TT's active support for productive U.S.-Caribbean relations will be critical to U.S. national interests.

Fortunately, there is an opportunity for the United States to foster a strategic partnership with CARICOM, through TT, that could defuse the antagonistic relations that Chavez seeks. Moreover, unique avenues for constructive, and even interpersonal, dialogue between TT and the United States toward this end are available: as the former chairman and chief executive of the Cabot Corporation, a company that imported natural gas into the United States from TT, U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman was intimately familiar with TT's LNG sector long before he ascended to Cabinet rank; of equal importance, the two-term U.S. Ambassador to TT, Roy Austin (who incidentally is originally from St. Vincent and the Grenadines), has had a trusted relationship with President Bush since their undergraduate days at Yale.

As we detail below, we believe that a Presidential visit to TT could galvanize TT's, and Prime Minister Patrick Manning's, U.S.-friendly leadership in CARICOM and in the Caribbean region in general. Such a visit would enhance the positive Caribbean relations that the United States seeks and secure vital U.S. national interests in the region.

(1) Energy Resources

TT is the leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the United States, providing approximately 65 percent of U.S. LNG imports. Atlantic LNG Company's completion of "Train V" (the fifth expansion) of its LNG plant in TT will soon complete the largest LNG production and

distribution facility in the world. (In addition to meetings with Prime Minister Manning and the other CARICOM leaders at Whitehall in downtown Port of Spain, a visit by the President to this plant, which sends significant LNG shipments to the U.S., would be a good opportunity.) The recently-passed Energy Policy Act of 2005, which gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) exclusive approval authority for new LNG import terminals in the United States and provided for significant expansion of domestic natural gas delivery infrastructure, signaled the long-term significance to U.S. energy policy of politically stable and U.S.-friendly exporters of LNG.

However, TT's strategic significance to the United States on matters of energy goes far beyond LNG and has implications that could potentially affect global oil politics in general, and U.S.-Venezuelan oil trade in particular. Of particular interest in this area is TT's recent decision to opt out of Venezuela's "Petro Caribe" initiative, which provides oil to Caribbean nations at discount prices. The United States has urged Caribbean nations not to join in this initiative, which is seen as part of Chavez's efforts to isolate the United States among countries of the Americas.

Venezuela is the fourth-leading source of U.S. oil imports, and as noted above, Chavez threatened this week to shut off oil exports to the United States. The Petro Caribe initiative must therefore be seen in this context: last month Chavez asserted that his wish to "share [Venezuela's] huge oil and gas reserves with the peoples of the Caribbean, Central and South America" is a reaction to the United States' alleged desire to secure energy resources "to fuel their irrational development model which at the same time brings underdevelopment and misery to the rest of the planet." Petro Caribe, like Venezuela's similar initiatives for the Mercosur² countries and the countries of the Andean region³ (Petrosur and Petro Andina, respectively), ostensibly aims to provide low-cost oil to the associated countries, but critics argue that the preferential deals' goals are mostly political.

Few CARICOM states possess any oil refining infrastructure (and as mentioned above, only TT possesses appreciable oil *production* resources), and the Petro Caribe proposal would provide oil products to these countries from Venezuela at below-market costs by eliminating the "middleman" costs of refining. Additionally, the initiative provides for financing of oil purchases from Venezuela at a variable percentage of credit tied to the global price of oil. (That is, if the market price is \$30 per barrel, Venezuela will provide a 25 percent line of credit; if the price is \$50 per barrel, the credit percentage moves to 40 percent; and if the price reaches \$100 per barrel, the credit line will be 50 percent.) Additionally, Venezuela would establish a "development fund" from oil sales, with an initial annual contribution of \$50 million for social and economic programs in the participating states. Finally, Chavez also has offered to dismantle large, unused oil storage tanks in Venezuela for shipment to CARICOM countries whose U.S.-owned storage facilities might be unavailable for storage of oil obtained through the Petro Caribe initiative.

In contrast to Chavez' claims of magnanimity, critics assert that this initiative is meant to secure political support for Venezuela, or even to "buy votes" for Venezuela in international organizations such as the Organization of American States. In any case, the potential for development of Caribbean dependence on Venezuelan oil at preferential terms, and the potential for disruption of

² Mercosur, or *Mercado Comun del Sur* (Southern Common Market), is a trade zone among Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

³ Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

U.S. oil imports from Venezuela, is self-evident. In the words of Guyana's ambassador to Venezuela, "Undoubtedly, President Chavez is asserting a leadership role in the region through the Petro Caribe scheme."

TT's decision to opt out of this initiative is thus of great significance to U.S. energy interests in the Caribbean region. It is all the more striking because Prime Minister Manning of TT was himself tapped by CARICOM leaders to negotiate the agreement; these leaders had hoped that the lure of TT's possibly becoming the location of the primary refining center for Petro Caribe oil from Venezuela would convince TT to participate. Despite pressure from CARICOM partners to join the agreement, however, Prime Minister Manning decided that TT would join Barbados in abstaining from the initiative. Even in the wake of the 13 other CARICOM countries' decisions to begin bilateral negotiations with Venezuela under Petro Caribe, TT's central CARICOM leadership role on matters of energy production remains. Dr. Raymond Wright, the director of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, stated this week: "I can speak on behalf of the political directorate that we will not abandon TT. We will not turn our backs on the country which for so long has been our reliable supplier and has stood side by side with us."

In sum, a Presidential visit to TT would encourage such pro-TT (and thus pro-United States) positions among CARICOM leaders on matters of energy. Such a visit would present an opportunity for the United States to provide diplomatic support and encouragement to TT and other Caribbean nations that wish to foster productive energy relationships with the United States and avoid the antagonistic relations sought by President Chavez.

(2) Trade

As the most dynamic and developed economy in CARICOM, TT is among the top Caribbean trade partners of the United States. TT has taken advantage of the benefits of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) to diversify its economy, and its development of its seaports and excellent international airport has positioned it to become the commercial and transportation hub of the Caribbean. Moreover, due largely to the leading candidacy of its capital city, Port of Spain, as a potential host city for the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), it has been a strong proponent of the U.S.-led negotiations for free trade throughout the Americas. In contrast to Venezuela's efforts to turn countries in the region away from the United States, TT is forward-looking on matters of trade and investment with the United States.

With the momentum from last month's Congressional approval of the Dominican Republic—Central American Free Trade Agreement, the time is ripe for the United States to cultivate allies for further liberalization in trade relations with other countries in the Caribbean and throughout the Americas. Additionally, on August 22, 2005, CARICOM called for a resumption of the stalled FTAA negotiations and advocated development of a "road map" toward successful completion of the FTAA. The region is clearly open to further trade liberalization, and as the commercial center of the Caribbean region, TT is well-positioned to provide crucial leadership on these issues both within CARICOM and in larger settings such as the FTAA negotiations. A Presidential visit to TT would accelerate the free trade momentum in the region that was begun with the successful conclusion of DR-CAFTA. Such a visit would encourage TT and other CARICOM members to reject Chavez' anti-U.S. demagoguery and instead become strategic partners to the United States in its efforts to liberalize trade throughout the Americas.

(3) Regional Security

As noted above, the United States suspects Venezuela of providing safe haven to Colombian guerrillas, and Venezuela has recently explicitly refused to cooperate with U.S. anti-drug trafficking efforts. This stands in contrast to TT's leading role in bolstering transparency in governance and efforts to fight Caribbean drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and money laundering. Prime Minister Manning has commended the United States for its efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the region, and stated last year in Miami that TT is a "stable and reliable ally of the United States in the maintenance of security in the region."

The nations of the Caribbean are often characterized as the United States' "third border," and with this in mind, President Bush announced the "Caribbean Third Border Initiative" in April 2001 to enhance the diplomatic, economic, health, education, and law enforcement cooperation between the United States and the nations of the Caribbean. In addition to providing increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and disaster preparedness and mitigation, the initiative provides additional funding for critical areas of law enforcement cooperation such as anti-money laundering and professional development of police and prosecutors.

Due to its central position in the Caribbean economic, diplomatic, and security sectors, TT is crucial to the success of securing the "third border" of the United States. This is particularly true in light of TT's position as the leading supplier of LNG to the United States, all through Caribbean shipping lines, and the energy infrastructure security needs that are inherent in such trade. Prime Minister Manning has taken a leadership role in Caribbean efforts to fight drug trafficking and related organized crime, and a Presidential visit to TT would bolster these efforts and remind Caribbean heads of state of the U.S. commitment to the Caribbean Third Border Initiative.

(4) International Security and the War on Terror

Despite differences between CARICOM and the United States regarding the liberation of Iraq, TT has exhibited pragmatic leadership in CARICOM regarding the United States' post-war democratization and reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Additionally, although TT was a leading proponent of the International Criminal Court (ICC), whose jurisdiction over U.S. nationals is opposed by the United States, TT is willing to discuss the implications for both TT and the United States of signing a non-surrender agreement under Article 98 of the Rome Treaty establishing the ICC. A Presidential visit to TT would reward TT for its leadership on these matters, thereby signaling to other CARICOM members U.S. eagerness to find common ground on matters of international security.

(a) The Liberation of Iraq

While CARICOM members were initially opposed to the U.S.-led coalition's approach to liberating Iraq from the rule of Saddam Hussein, immediately following the commencement of hostilities in Iraq in March 2003, Prime Minister Manning's government began to take a pragmatic approach to the war that sought to avoid "post-mortems" or "placing blame." At a news conference on April 10, 2003, Foreign Minister Knowlson Gift stated that concerns over the war's origins "should not overshadow what needs to be done," and soon after, CARICOM itself followed TT's lead. In May 2003, CARICOM foreign ministers issued the following statement:

“CARICOM’s position on the Iraq crisis... [was] at variance with that of members of the Coalition, which includes some of CARICOM’s closest allies. The Ministers conclude that these differences of opinion should not lead to prolonged tension or damage to the excellent relations which the CARICOM democracies share with these major partners.

Ministers [are] of the firm view that the efforts of the international community should now be focused on the future. In this regard, they emphasized the urgency of implementing a comprehensive programme for the reconstruction of Iraq, giving priority to the humanitarian plight of the Iraqi people...

In this regard, Ministers [identify] as a priority the strengthening of ties with traditional friends and a reinvigorated dialogue based on shared values, friendship and openness with historic allies, particularly those in the hemisphere.”

The stark difference between the positive, forward-looking approach of TT-led CARICOM and the demagoguery of Chavez’ participation in the “Against War and Imperialism” festival in Venezuela this week is clear. As the struggle to assist Iraq in establishing a secure democracy continues, a Presidential visit to TT will underscore the importance of pragmatic cooperation among traditional regional allies even in security initiatives outside their geographical region. While the military and financial resources of TT and other CARICOM countries are of course limited, TT wishes to continue its CARICOM leadership role in fostering diplomatic and political support for the global effort to establish democracy in Iraq.

(b) Article 98 Agreements

TT is widely recognized as the Caribbean region’s strongest proponent of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It was among the first three states worldwide to ratify the Rome Statute that established the ICC, and one of TT’s most distinguished jurists, Judge Karl Hudson-Phillips, was among the 18 judges recently elected by the state parties to the ICC to fill the Court upon its establishment. This leadership role in the establishment of the ICC is a point of pride for TT, but it does not foreclose the possibility of finding common ground on the matter with the United States, which is opposed to ICC jurisdiction over U.S. citizens.

The United States is seeking to negotiate bilateral non-surrender (i.e., non-extradition) agreements under Article 98 of the Rome Statute with as many countries as possible. To date, the United States has negotiated 99 such agreements. Among CARICOM countries, only two – Antigua & Barbuda and Belize – have concluded Article 98 agreements with the United States, and TT is presently among the four CARICOM countries that are parties to the ICC but have not concluded Article 98 agreements with the United States. (The other three are Barbados, Dominica, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.) Under the American Servicemembers Protection Act of 2002, TT and other parties to the ICC that have not concluded Article 98 agreements are subject to suspension of U.S. military assistance.

TT understands that concluding an Article 98 agreement with the United States could bring it substantial benefits, including resumption of military assistance and general improvement in trade and diplomatic relations. However, there are also certain disadvantages to TT inherent in entering into such an agreement, namely the possibility of being negatively regarded by its neighbors. This is a particularly delicate issue for TT due to its relationship with the ICC.

In this context, a Presidential visit to TT could go a long way toward convincing TT that an Article 98 agreement would solidify the relationship between TT and the United States. Due to the prominence of TT's role in establishing the ICC, such an agreement with TT would provide substantial support for the U.S. position that its necessary global military operations in the War on Terror are not compatible with ICC jurisdiction over U.S. citizens, and could therefore possibly lead to the negotiation of Article 98 agreements with other CARICOM parties to the ICC.

This material is distributed by the team of Ainsley Gill & Associates, representing the Government of Trinidad & Tobago. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.